1. A computer-implemented method comprising:

establishing a database containing data corresponding to a probability that words occur together in text;

receiving a phrase comprised of the words;

5   retrieving the data for the words from the database in response to receiving the phrase; and

determining, based on the data, whether to perform a text search for the phrase as a whole or for the words individually.

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2. The method of claim 1, wherein establishing the database comprises:

searching through text from one or more documents; and

determining a metric indicative of the probability

15   that the words will occur together in the text of the one or more documents.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the metric is determined based on a probability that the words will occur

20   together and a probability that the words will occur individually.

4.   The method of claim 3, wherein the metric comprises a ratio of the probability that the words will occur together and the probability that the words will occur individually.

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5.   The method of claim 2, wherein the one or more documents comprise World Wide Web pages.

6.   The method of claim 1, wherein determining

10   comprises:

comparing the data to a predetermined threshold;

performing the text search for the phrase as a whole if the data exceeds the predetermined threshold; and

performing the text search for the words individually

15   if the data does not exceed the predetermined threshold.

7.   The method of claim 6, wherein the text search is performed on another database.

20   8.   The method of claim 7, wherein the other database comprises Web databases on the Internet.

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9. The method of claim 1, wherein the words comprise two or more words in series.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein, if it is

5 determined to perform the text search for the phrase as a whole, the method further comprises:

performing the text search for the phrase as a whole.

11. The method of 10, further comprising:

10 performing the text search for the words individually after performing the text search for the phrase as a whole.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein, if it is determined to perform the text search for the words

15 individually, the method further comprises:

performing the text search for the words individually.

13. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

issuing a message, based on a result of the

20 determining, asking whether to perform the text search for the phrase as a whole; and

performing the text search for the phrase as a whole or for the words individually based on a response to the message.

5   14.   The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more documents comprise a past query log.

15.   A computer program stored on a computer-readable medium, the computer program comprising instructions that

10   cause a machine to:

establish a database containing data corresponding to a probability that words occur together in text;

receive a phrase comprised of the words;

retrieve the data for the words from the database in

15   response to receiving the phrase; and

determine, based on the data, whether to perform a text search for the phrase as a whole or for the words individually.

20   16.   The computer program of claim 15, wherein establishing the database comprises:

searching through text from one or more documents; and

determining a metric indicative of the probability
that the words will occur together in the text of the one
or more documents.

5   17.   The computer program of claim 16, wherein the
metric is determined based on a probability that the words
will occur together and a probability that the words will
occur individually.

10   18.   The computer program of claim 17, wherein the
metric comprises a ratio of the probability that the words
will occur together and the probability that the words will
occur individually.

15   19.   The computer program of claim 16, wherein the one
or more documents comprise World Wide Web pages.

20.   The computer program of claim 15, wherein
determining comprises:
       comparing the data to a predetermined threshold;
20   performing the text search for the phrase as a whole
if the data exceeds the predetermined threshold; and

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performing the text search for the words individually if the data does not exceed the predetermined threshold.

21.   The computer program of claim 20, wherein the text search is performed on another database.

22.   The computer program of claim 21, wherein the other database comprises Web databases on the Internet.

23.   The computer program of claim 15, wherein the words comprise two or more words in series.

24.   The computer program of claim 15, further comprising:

instructions to perform the text search for the phrase as a whole if it is determined to perform the text search for the phrase as a whole.

25.   The computer program of 24, further comprising:

instructions to perform the text search for the words individually after performing the text search for the phrase as a whole.

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26.   The computer program of claim 15, further comprising instructions to perform the text search for the words individually if it is determined to perform the text

5   search for the words individually.

27.   The computer program of claim 15, further comprising instructions to:

issue a message, based on a result of the determining,

10   asking whether to perform the text search for the phrase as a whole; and

perform the text search for the phrase as a whole or for the words individually based on a response to the message.

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28.   The computer program of claim 15, wherein the one or more documents comprise a past query log.

29.   An apparatus comprising:

20   a memory that stores executable instructions; and

a processor that executes the instructions to:

establish a database containing data

corresponding to a probability that words occur

together in text;

receive a phrase comprised of the words;

retrieve the data for the words from the database

5   in response to receiving the phrase; and

determine, based on the data, whether to perform

a text search for the phrase as a whole or for the

words individually.

10   30.   The apparatus of claim 29, wherein establishing

the database comprises:

searching through text from one or more documents; and

determining a metric indicative of the probability

that the words will occur together in the text of the one

15   or more documents.

31.   The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the metric is

determined based on a probability that the words will occur

together and a probability that the words will occur

20   individually.

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32. The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the metric comprises a ratio of the probability that the words will occur together and the probability that the words will occur individually.

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33. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the one or more documents comprise World Wide Web pages.

34. The apparatus of claim 29, wherein determining

10 comprises:

comparing the data to a predetermined threshold;

performing the text search for the phrase as a whole if the data exceeds the predetermined threshold; and

performing the text search for the words individually

15 if the data does not exceed the predetermined threshold.

35. The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the text search is performed on another database.

20 36. The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the other database comprises Web databases on the Internet.

37. The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the words comprise two or more words in series.

38. The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the processor executes instruction to perform the text search for the phrase as a whole if it is determined to perform the text search for the phrase as a whole.

39. The apparatus of 38, wherein the processor executes instruction to perform the text search for the words individually after performing the text search for the phrase as a whole.

40. The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the processor executes instruction to perform the text search for the words individually if it is determined to perform the text search for the words individually.

41. The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the processor executes instructions to:

issue a message, based on a result of the determining, asking whether to perform the text search for the phrase as

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a whole; and

    perform the text search for the phrase as a whole or for the words individually based on a response to the message.

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    42.   The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the one or more documents comprise a past query log.